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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,877	07/06/2001	Palle Schneider	10179.204-US	4404

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EXAMINER

SLOBODYANSKY, ELIZABETH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/869,877

Applicant(s)

SCHNEIDER ET AL.

Examiner

Elizabeth Slobodyansky, PhD

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004 and 08 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-34 and 36-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 16-34 and 36-45 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 8, 2004 has been entered.

The AF amendment filed January 12, 2004 amending claims 16 and 36 and canceling claim 35 has been entered.

Claims 16-34 and 36-45 are pending.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) (two Danish applications), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 16-34 and 36-42, drawn to a variant laccase and a detergent composition comprising thereof.

Group II, claim(s) 43-45, drawn to methods of use a variant laccase.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: variant laccases and methods of use thereof are known in the prior art and therefore, there is no special technical feature linking a variant laccase and methods of use thereof that as a whole makes a contribution over the prior art (WO 98/38286, for example).

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position V52 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position G121 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position F141 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position H206 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position P336 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position T365 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position I380 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position I382 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position V406 in SEQ ID NO:10;

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position A506 in SEQ ID NO:10; and

A variant laccase comprising a substitution at position corresponding to position W507 in SEQ ID NO:10.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims

Art Unit: 1652

are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claims 17 and 18 - a V52 variant laccase;
Claims 19 and 20 - a G121 variant laccase;
Claims 21 and 22 - a F141 variant laccase;
Claims 23 and 24 - a H206 variant laccase;
Claims 25 and 26 - a P336 variant laccase;
Claims 27 and 28 - a T365 variant laccase;
Claims 29 and 30 - a I380 variant laccase;
Claims 31 and 32 - a I382 variant laccase;
Claims 33 and 34 - a V406 variant laccase;
Claim 36 - a A506 variant laccase;
Claims 37 and 38 - a W507 variant laccase;

The following claim(s) are generic: 16 and 39-45.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the shared technical feature among the species is that they are variant laccases. However, said technical feature is not a special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2 because variant laccases are known in the prior art, *supra*. The laccase variants recited in the claims have substitution at different positions, i.e. have different structures and utilities. The recited mutations are independent from each other. Therefore, a variant laccase considered as a whole does not make a contribution over the prior art.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth Slobodyansky, PhD whose telephone number is 571-272-0941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, PhD can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Elizabeth Slobodyansky, PhD
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

May 14, 2004